

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-07 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 L-03 IGA-02 FEA-02

INT-08 NEA-11 /122 W

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P R 011626Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6989

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 0823

DEPT PASS EXIM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, IV

SUBJECT: KAISER ENGINEERING AND TAABO DAM

REF: ABIDJAN 8457

1. RICHARD LOWELL, VICE PRESIDENT OF KAISER ENGINEERS, INFORMED E/C CHIEF THAT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOIC AND KAISER ENGINEERING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TAABO DAM HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED. MINFIN BEDIE SCHEDULED TO DEPART ABIDJAN FEB. 2 FOR U.S. TO CONSULT WITH GOIC ATTORNEY TORCZYNER AND OTHER US-BASED GOIC OFFICIALS RE FINE POINTS OF CONTRACT. BEDIE ALSO LIKELY TO REQUEST MEETING WITH EXIM OFFICIALS. BEDIE SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO IVORY COAST BETWEEN FEB. 9-15 WITH FORMAL CONTRACT SIGNING AWARDED TAABO DAM PROJECT TO KAISER ENGINEERING TAKING PLACE SOON THEREAFTER.

2. LOWELL AND OTHER KAISER REPS WERE IMPRESSED WITH SMOOTHNESS AND RAPIDITY OF NEGOTIATING PROCESS; ENERGY CRISIS, IN THEIR VIEW, SPURRED GOIC. LOWELL REMARKED THAT MINFIN BEDIE PREFERRED FIXED
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PRICE CONTRACT (VS CONTRACT WITH COST PLUS ESCALATOR CLAUSE)

STATING THAT HE "WANTED TO KNOW NOW EXACTLY WHAT PROJECT WOULD COST EVEN THOUGH ULTIMATELY GOIC MIGHT HAVE TO PAY MORE." LOWELL INDICATED PROJECT WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY DOLS 100 MILLION (SEE REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: EASE WITH WHICH NEGOTIATIONS PROCEEDED INDICATES GOIC CONCERN TO REDUCE--AT LEAST IN MEDIUM-TERM--DEPENDENCY UPON THERMAL ENERGY SOURCES. KAISER REPS INDICATED GOIC MIGHT SOON CONCLUDE AGREEMENT WITH GHANA FOR GRID NETWORK LINKING EASTERN IVORY COAST WITH WESTERN GHANA FOR SHARING OF HYDROELECTRIC ENERGY. ON OTHER HAND, KAISER REPS FELT POSSIBILITY OF LIBERIAN-IVORIAN DAM ON CAVALLY RIVER UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF LIBERIAN LEADERSHIPS' "LACK OF FORESIGHT AND COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC GROWTH."
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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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